

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2007-4270-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** November 29, 2007  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 5124 W. De Longpre Ave  
Council District: 13  
Community Plan Area: Hollywood  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: None  
Legal Description: Lot 13 of MB 4-33, Culver's  
Hollywood Park Tract

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
BUKOWSKI COURT

**REQUEST:** Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

**APPLICANT:** Lauren E. Everett  
1047 Hyperion Ave. #7  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

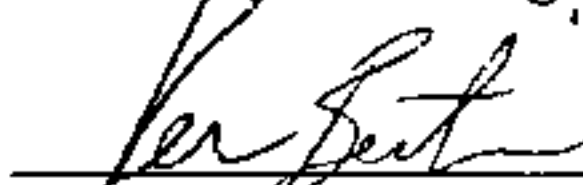
**OWNER:** Victoria Gureyeva and Aleksandr Konovalov  
7309 Franklin Ave. #405  
Los Angeles, CA 90046

**OWNER'S  
REPRESENTATIVE** Joseph Trenk  
7136 Haskell Avenue, Suite 126  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

### RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP  
Director of Planning

  
Ken Bernstein, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources



Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

  
Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: August 15, 2007 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## **FINDINGS**

The property is identified with an historic personage, as the home of internationally recognized novelist and poet Charles Bukowski from 1963-1972.

## **CRITERIA**

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

## **SUMMARY**

Built between 1922-26 and located in the Hollywood area, this property consists of two one-story Spanish Colonial Revival Style residential buildings, a one-story California Bungalow-style residential building, and a two-story Spanish Colonial Revival style residential building arranged in a linear courtyard housing configuration. All buildings appear to be rectangular in plan. The two first buildings have flat clay tile roofs, stucco finish, aluminum sliding windows, and entrances with open porches and square columns. The bungalow-style building is currently not visible from the sidewalk. The back building has a flat clay tile roof, stucco finish, aluminum sliding windows, and centered entrance.

The proposed Bukowski Court historic monument appears to have been built by the Los Angeles-based "Pacific Ready-Cut Homes" company. From 1908-1940, the company sold ready-to-assemble homes based on their own plans, ranging from Revival styles to Craftsman.

The subject building is significant for its association with noted novelist and poet Charles Bukowski (1920-1994). Bukowski resided in the complex from 1963-1972 during the most prolific period of his literary career, writing his first novel *Post Office*, his column *Notes from a Dirty Old Man*, as well as *South of No North*, *Mockingbird Wish Me Luck*, *The Days Run Away like Wild Horses*, and *Factotum*. The property is also the setting for his novel *Women*. In one of his last poems in 1992, he wrote to a friend, "and thank you/ for locating me there at/ 5124 De Longpre Ave/ somewhere between/ alcoholism and/ madness."

Alterations to the buildings include the addition of aluminum sliding windows.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Bukowski Court property successfully meets one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: it is identified with historic personages, as the home of internationally recognized novelist and poet Charles Bukowski from 1963-1972. As a building that once housed a renowned literary figure influential in the cultural life of Los Angeles, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

Apart from housing Bukowski during the most productive period of his literary career, it is at the subject property that Bukowski transitioned from a postal worker to a writer, completing his first novel, *Post Office*. The subject property also figures prominently in his work as a setting and is directly alluded to in his poetry.

The staff of the Office of Historic Resources recognizes that Bukowski remains a controversial figure both for his personal life and the subject matter of his writing. Recommending designation of the subject property is not an implied approval of his social views or political leanings, nor a negation of these controversial aspects of his life. Nonetheless, his literary accomplishments and his influential role in the cultural life of Los Angeles render the subject property eligible for Historic-Cultural Monument designation.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of September 20, 2007, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On November 1, 2007, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the exterior of the subject property.